

COMPARISON OF MERCURY NPDES PERMITTING STRATEGIES
METHOD 1631

	MAINE	MICHIGAN	MINNESOTA
APPLICABILITY	POTWs, Industries renewals/modifications	Permit renewals/modifications, yr. determines timeline	Municipal and Industrial Existing Permits Major (> 1 mgd) or Minor (0.2< x < 1 mgd)*
INTERIM LIMITS	Avg. and Max. calculated based upon collected data. Avg. default limit: 4.5 ng/L Max. limit = 1.5 * avg.	Existing Limits**: 200 ng/L for 2 yrs 30 ng/L remainder of permit No Current Limits**: 30 ng/L effective 3rd or 4th yr. Higher limit => submit 12-mth data Insufficient data: limit after monitoring New Permit: 1.3 ng/L MA*	Preliminary limits based upon chronic WQS applied as a WLA at point of discharge <u>Major (and Minor)</u> No data: current Hg limit No data or limit: monitoring Current Data: RPE analysis for reissuance and possible limit imposed.
MONITORING FREQUENCY	To est. interim limits*: 30 day interval btwn sampling To determine compliance with interim limits: 60 day interval btwn sampling	Interim - 2 yrs monitoring Insufficient data: Monitoring for 1 - 2 yrs	<u>Major</u> In general: Quarterly for life of permit No low-level data, permit limits => bimonthly No low-level data, no permit limits => quarterly Low-level data = > evaluate and set PL <u>Minor</u> Semi-annual for life of permit <u>Other</u> Ponds = > once each discharge event Stormwater => case-by-case; 4 times/yr.
CONDITIONS	PMP consistent with dept. model plans. Variance due to: water conservation, production changes or seasonal variation. Implemented interim limits is considered a permit mod.	Multiple Discharger Variance (MDV)** Pollution prevention, source control and PMPs Insufficient data: Trigger PMP and possibly a limit imposed if exceed WQS	Hg TRPs for 5 yr. permit reissuance cycle If limits are not meet, compliance schedule (PMP) is triggered. If WQBEL can't be met, may apply for variance or permit mod. after conducting RPE Volunteer MCRI initial 5 yrs
DURATION	Length of permit term**	Length of permit term	Until loads are allocated through the the TMDL process.
EXCEPTIONS / NOTES	* 1 exceedance: 2 add. Tests 2 exceedances: mtg for PMP **Oct. 1, 2001 sunset exp. amended on Oct. 6, 2001	* May qualify for variance **Called "Level Currently Achievable" (LCA), 30 ng/L is a rolling 12-mth avg. required by the MDV	Major (> 1 mgd) or Minor (0.2< x < 1 mgd) * Dischargers w/ 0.2 < x < 1 mgd or w/ high levels of Hg, subject to same guidelines if: 1. Additional analytical capacity 2. More sampling training 3. Evaluation of sampling data from stabilization ponds TRPs = Hg Toxicity Reduction Programs

			MCRI = Hg Contamination Reduction Initiative PL = Permit limit
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	MINNESOTA	OHIO	WISCONSIN	NORTH CAROLINA
APPLICABILITY	New or Expanded Permits Requirements vary if ORVW, OIRW, All Waters	Existing NPDES permit as of 6/22/99*	12 monitoring results spread over 2 years	<200 ng/L PL, in-stream dilution or monitoring rqmt
INTERIM LIMITS	Preliminary limits based upon chronic WQS applied as a WLA at point of discharge** <u>WQS:</u> 1.3 ng/L within Lake Superior Basin*** 6.9 ng/L remainder of the state Limits effective at the beginning of discharge or operation	"Initial" or "variance" limit 12 ng/L AAMEC or 30-day avg. WQBEL	"Alternative mercury effluent limitations" 99th percentile of daily discharge conc. as DM conc. If Alt. Limit is not supported or agreed on, WQBEL used instead.	<200 ng/L PL or in-stream dilution WQS: 12 ng/L
MONITORING FREQUENCY	Frequency not stated, assumed same as existing permits	Previous monitoring study to identify Hg source Continuous monitoring to determine compliance	<u>Major Municipal Discharger* **</u> > 5 mgd: monthly 1 < x < 5 mgd: once every 3 months <u>Minor Municipal Discharger* **</u> once every 3 months if 2 or more sludge exceedances in last 5 yrs <u>Industrial*</u> Monthly if considered to contribute net mercury discharges > 0.1 mgd and no data on similar discharge: Once every 3 months	
CONDITIONS	<u>In general:</u> Hg TRPs after RPE and limit retained Conditions for permit mod.: Expanding => prior to initiation New => after a monitoring period Variance: if unable to meet WQBEL Expanded: conduct nondegradation review, except if conduct freeze TSS loadings. <u>OIRW and ORVW in Lake Superior Basin:</u> Nondegradation demo No variances for new dischargers**** <u>ORVW and outside Lake Superior Basin:</u> BTPT analysis and additional influent and pretreatment requirements for POTWs <u>All Waters and outside Lake Superior Basin</u> PMP, prevention, end-of-pipe analysis POTWs: collection system user requirement Industrial: BTPT analysis	Hg variance** - process streamlined PMP condition of variance to achieve 12 ng/L AAMEC or WQBEL Available for permittees who can't meet 30-day avg. WQBEL and meet 2 ng/L AAMEC prior to permit exp. Submitted either as a mod. or addendum to a PRA.	PMP - required if granted alt. limit Variance - from WQS, only applicable if not granted Alt. Limit Alt. Limit not available for new dischargers in the Great Lakes system, unless necessary due to imminent and substantial danger to public health or welfare.	No current limit: data collected to statistically evaluate eff data w/ WQS and allowable eff conc. RPE every 5 yrs w/ permit renewal, might result in new limit WQS reviewed every 3 yrs
DURATION	Until loads are allocated through the the TMDL process.	5 yrs from permit effective date or permit exp date***	Length of permit term***	5 yrs (permit length)
EXCEPTIONS / NOTES	* Dischargers w/ 0.2 < x < 1 mgd or w/ high levels of Hg, subject to same guidelines if: 1. Additional analytical capacity 2. More sampling training 3. Evaluation of sampling data from stabilization ponds ***No removal of limits during initial issuance in the Lake Superior Basin	* Unless discharge results from clean-up activity or rerouting all or portion of existing discharge, resulting in pollution reduction. ** If can't meet variance conditions, may apply for an individual variance. 3 of 6	* Monitoring required of permittees w/o sufficient data at time of permit reissuance Discharge frequency may be reduced after 12 representative results. **Municipalities must also monitor influent and sludge or biosolids	Method 1631 required beginning 9/1/03

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METHOD 1631

	****Unless show imminent and substantial danger to public health and welfare. BTPT = Best Tech. in Process and Treatment	***Whichever is shorter AAMEC = annual average mercury effluent conc.	*** Must be in compliance with permit for Alt. Limit renewal in permit reissuance.	
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	PENNSYLVANIA	NEW YORK
APPLICABILITY	Method 1631 not currently required.	
INTERIM LIMITS	In process of developing regs to be in effective in a couple years. Proposed limit expected to drop drastically. Current Hg	
MONITORING FREQUENCY	criteria: 50 ng/L Currently, compliance measured by MDL of required Method 245.1	
CONDITIONS		
DURATION		
EXCEPTIONS / NOTES		*Waiting for response on whether NYDEC has a policy/regs as of June 6, 2003

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